

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MADRID 01884 211116Z

51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-10 SAJ-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ERDA-07

/094 W

----- 036779

R 210812Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 108

INFO JUSMAAG SPAIN

16TH AF

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

CINCEUR

US MISSION NATO 547

UNCLAS MADRID 1884

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, SP

SUBJ: BASE NEGOTIATIONS: PRESS ROUNDUP

1. PRESS COMMENTARY OVER BASE NEGOTIATIONS HAS FOCUSSED ON SEVERAL THEMES IN RECENT WEEKS.

2. PRIOR TO LATEST ROUND EDITORIAL COMMENT IN CATHOLIC LIBERAL DAILY "YA" DEPLORED LACK OF INFO AND GENERAL SECRECY SURROUNDING NEGOTIATIONS. "WOULD IT NOT BE WISE FOR THE GOVT, THE CORTES, AND OPPOSITION GROUPS IN SPAIN TO BE ABLE TO DEBATE A PROBLEM WHICH WEIGHS HEAVILY ON ALL OF US AND WHICH IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE WILL DO SO INCREASINGLY". IN MARCH 8 EDITION OF MAGAZINE "BLANCO Y NEGRO" AMBASSADOR JOSE MARIA DE AREILZA (FORMER AMB TO FRANCE AND U.S. AND CURRENTLY PROMINENT POLITICIAN OF CENTER OPPOSITION) COMMENTED: "IN EFFECT, THERE IS NOTHING SO DEPRESSING OR LAMENTABLE AS THE FACT THAT IN U.S. BASES IN SPAIN ARE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MADRID 01884 211116Z

BEING TALKED ABOUT IN U.S. WITH UNENCUMBERED FREEDOM IN

SENATE, IN CONGRESS, IN TV AND PRESS, AND IN OUR OWN COUNTRY WE FIND IT NECESSARY TO TALK ABOUT SUCH AN IMPORTANT QUESTION ON THE SLY AS IF IT WERE A QUESTION OF SOME SHAMEFUL SECRET".

3. OTHER PRESS COMMENTARY IN "LA VANGUARDIA" (BARCELONA) AND "ARRIBA" HAS REITERATED THEMES THAT SITUATION IN PORTUGAL HAS ENHANCED VALUE OF BASES; CURRENT OPINION IN SPAIN OPPOSES ANY TYPE KRENEQDLNS # WHETHER TO REDUCE NUMBER OF BASES OR PROVIDE GREATER IMPORTANCE TO THOSE THAT REMAIN; ONLY WAY OUT IS MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY WHICH IS IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE CONGRESS WOULD NEVER ACCEPT IT.

4. PROBABLY MOST INTERESTING PRESS COMMENTARY, HOWEVER, FOCUSED ON REMARKS BY UNDERSECRETARY ROVIRA, HEAD OF SPANISH DELEGATION TO NEGOTIATIONS AFTER LATEST ROUND, AS REPORTED IN BARCELONA DAILY "LA VANGUARDIA".

A. "IT DOES NOT SERVE SPANISH INTERESTES TO PROMOTE GRATUITOUSLY AN ANTI-AMERICAN ATTITUDE. WE CAN GET ALONG WITH THEM WITH THE ASSURANCE THAT THEY ALWAYS KEEP THEIR COMMITMENTS."

B. ROVIRA DISMISSED THE IDEA THAT NEW ARMS WOULD LEAD TO WITHDRAWAL U.S. FORCES TO BASES WITHIN ITS NATIONAL TERRITORY. I DO NOT BELIEVE TECHNOLOGY HAS GONE SO FAR THAT THE U.S. CAN DO WITHOUT ITS POINTS OF MILITARY SUPPORT IN EUROPE, OUTSIDE ITS OWN NATIONAL TERRITORY." SPANISH UNDERSECRETARY ARGUED THAT THIS IDEA OF WITHDRAWAL WAS CONTRARY TO INTEREST SHOWN BY U.S. IN COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS IN MAINTAINING ITS FACILITIES IN SPAIN. "THESE FACILITIES ARE VERY EXPENSIVE AND NO COUNTRY CAN THROW MONEY OUT THE WINDOW WITHOUT GIVING IT CONSIDERABLE PRIOR THOUGHT".

C. ROVIRA MENTIONED FUNDAMENTAL NEED WHICH U.S. CONTINUES TO HAVE IN HOLDING ON TO SUPPORT AREAS FOR 6TH FLEET AND REPLENISHMENT FOR ITS NUCLEAR SUBMARINEES. "MAINTENANCE OF A BASE IS SO EXPENSIVE THAT IF MILITARY REQUIREMENTS IS GIVEN MOMENT DO NOT JUSTIFY IT, THE BASE IS PUT ON 'STANDBY' AND IT IS TEMPORARILY NOT USED, AS IN CURRENT CASE OF MORON AND PREVIOUSLY IN ZARAGOZA."

D. SPEAKING OF SPAIN'S STRATEGIC GEOPOLITICAL
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MADRID 01884 211116Z

LOCATION, ROVIRA SAID POSITION OF SPAIN IN IBERIAN PENINSULA OF SOUTHERN EUROPE RELATIVELY MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN SWEDEN, FOR EXAMPLE, IN SCANDANAVIAN PENINSULA OF NORTHER EUROPE.

5. REGARDING PRESS REPORTS ABOUT U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM TORREJON, ARTICLE INCLUDED "CATEGORICAL DENIAL "BY ROVIRA: "WE HAVE NOT ASKED SUCH A THING OF AMERICANS, NEITHER

WITHIN OR OUTSIDE OF NEGOTIATIONS". ARTICLE CONCLUDED WITH
REFERENCE TO HIGH REGARD ROVIRA EXPRESSED FOR AMB MCCLOSKEY,
"YOU CAN BE SURE THIS MAN IS A TRUE GENTLEMAN".
STABLER

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID01884
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750099-0759
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750328/aaaaayum.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 SEP 2003 by greeneet>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BASE NEGOTIATIONS: PRESS ROUNDUP
TAGS: MARR, SP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006